The Pittsburgh Gazette.

SATURDAY, December 29, 1798. No. 64

Vol. 13. PITTSBURGH: PRINTED BY JOHN SCULL, IN FRONT STREET, NEXT DOOR TO THE CORNER OF MARKET-STREET.

JOHN IRWIN,

At his WHOLESALE and RETAIL Store, corner of Market and Fourth streets,

HAS for Sale a large and general assortment of MERCHANDIZE, fuitable for the prefent feafon. Alfo, a handfome aflortment of LASTINGS, and a large quantity of IRONMONGERY, by the barrel or gallon, which he flatters himself will be acceptable to his cuftomers and the public.

Pittsburgh, December 20 h, 1798.

ROBERT SIMPSON,

Oppofite the Court Houfe, has on hand and intends keeping a conftant fupply of

MADEIRA, Sherry, Port, Hiaga, Old Cognac & Bourdeaux Brandy, Jamaica Spirits, Rum, Holland Gin, Lime Juice, Spirits Turpentine, Tanners Oil,

Hyfon & Bohea Teas, Loaf and Brown Sugars, Coffee, Chocolate, Rice, Pepper, Allfpice, Ginger, Cinnamon, Nutmegs, &c. &c.

Which will be fold WHOLESALE and RETAIL on reafonable terms.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 18, 1798.

JOHN C. GILKISON,

HAS juft opened a fmall BOOK and STATIONARY STORE, and SURVEYOR'S OFFICE; he has a variety of Books for Schools; he has efpecially, an aflortment of which he means to increafe and be prepared to encourage with every reafonable him: he has alfo fome Books of general inftruction and amufement, which he will fell or lend out for a reafonable time, at a reafonable price. As a Scrivener, he is prepared to draw Writings, fuch as Deeds, Articles of Agreement, Powers of Attorney, Obligations, &c. Stamped paper for Bonds, Notes, Bills or Exchange, &c. may be had at his Office.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 18, 1798.

HORSES,

TO BE SOLD.

ON SATURDAY the 29th inftant, will be fold by public auction, a number of Draught, Riding, and Pack Horfes, the property of the United States.

On giving approved fecurity, three months credit will be allowed.

By order of the Quarter Mafter General.

Pittsburgh, 20th December, 1798.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS William Larwill, of the Borough of Pittsburgh did, on the 20th day of November laft, make an affignment of his property unto Gazzam, Taylor and Lowrie, merchants, of Philadelphia, unto whom he is largely indebted. This is therefore to forewarn all perfons againft paying any debts due to the faid Larwill to any other perfon than the fubfcriber refiding in Pittsburgh, who is duly authorifed to receive the fame.

WILLIAM GAZZAM.

Pittsburgh, December 22, 1798.

Ten Dollars Reward.

STRAYED or ftolen from the fubfcriber, living near Beaver town, two HORSES, one a ftrawberry roan, about 12 years old, 14 or 15 hands high, trots and paces, has a fmall fpot on the near fhoulder; the other is Black, about 4 years old, about 15 hands high, near hind foot white, never has been chofe. Whoever takes up faid creatures and delivers them to Jonathan Coulter, Efq. in Beaver town, or to the fubfcriber, fhall receive the above reward and reafonable charges.

THOMAS WALTON.

Dec. 17, 1798.

Came to the plantation of the fubfcriber living in Pot townfhip, Allegheny county, about 4 miles from Pittsburgh, a Sorrel Mare COLT, hind feet white, and a bald face. The owner is defired to come, prove property, pay charges, and take her away.

EDWARD SMITH.

December 18, 1798.

Came to the plantation of the fubfcriber, living in Pine townfhip, Allegheny county, in July laft, a Red STEER, with a white face, and a bit cut out of the near ear, and a fwallow fork in the off ear, four years old. The owner is defired to come, prove property, pay charges, and take her away

WILLIAM DICKSON.

Lowry's Run, Dec. 15, 1798.

Came to the plantation of the fubfcriber, living on the waters of Peters creek, at William Cochran's mill, in Mifflin townfhip, Allegheny county, a Black COW, about four years old, a crop off the left ear, and two flits in the right ear. The owner is defired to come, prove property, pay charges, and take her away

JOHN WILSON.

Dec. 14, 1798.

A few fetts of Doctor PERKINS's celebrated Metallic Tractors, are left for fale at this Printing Office.

Pittsburgh, Dec. 13, 1798.

Diffolution of Partnerfhip.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the partnerfhip of the fubfcribers, trading under the firm of William Woods & Co. is this day diffolved by mutual content. Therefore, all perfons having any demands on faid firm are defired to bring them in forthwith to William Woods for payment, and thofe as are indebted to faid firm are defired to make payment to him, as he is fully authorifed to fettle and receive the fame.

NICHOLAS CLOPPER.
ABRAHAM D. CLOPPER,
WILLIAM WOODS,

Pittsburgh, November 1, 1798.

The bufinefs will in future be conducted by WILLIAM WOODS, who has at prefent on hand, a neat and general aflortment of Merchandize, well adapted to the feafon, which he will fell at a reafonable profit. He acknowledges with gratitude the encouragement he has met with from his friends and cuftomers, fince his commencement in bufinefs in this place, and hopes to merit a continuance of their favors.

FOR SALE.

THAT valuable property in Water ftreet, in the Town of Pittsburgh, which has been for many years occupied as a Public Tavern, and eftablifhed by the fign of the Fountain (or Green Tree.) The eligibility of the fituation, the commodioufnefs of the Houfe, Stable, and other neceffary buildings renders it unneceffary to fay any thing more, as the perfon who may wifh to purchafe will view the premifes. A fmall part of the purchafe money will be expected, and an extenfive credit will be given, if required, for the balance.

Likewife, a Seven Acre Out-Lot, contiguous to the Town, under cultivation, with a poft and rail fence. For terms apply to the fubfcriber, who will give an indifputable title.

JOSIAH TANNEHILL.

Pittsburgh, June 20, 1798.

Tobacco Manufactory.

THE fubfcribers take the liberty of informing their friends and the public, that they have commenced the above line of bufinefs in the houfe formerly occupied by Mr. Adam Funk, where they have ready for fale a general aflortment of the firft quality Tobacco. They flatter themfelves that they can fupply thofe who may honor them with their cuftom, on very reafonable terms.—Good encouragement will be given to wholefale purchafers. Leaf Tobacco wanted, for which a generous price will be given.

JOSEPH M'CLURG & Co.

Pittsburgh, October 27, 1798.

N. B. Said M'Clurg has alfo opened for fale at the above place, a neat and general aflortment of *Dry Goods, Groceries, Spirits, Tobacco, &c. &c.* which he is determined to fell at the moft reduced prices.

BROKERS OFFICE,

No. 147 Chefnut Street Philadelphia.

WILLIAM M. BIDDLE informs his friends and the public, that he has commenced bufinefs as a Broker and Scrivener, at No. 147 Chefnut Street Philadelphia, in the vicinity of the Banks and the Land Office, and other Public Offices of this State and of the United States.

PATENTS for Land procured, and all kind of bufinefs tranfacted in the Land Office and other Public Offices with the utmoft accuracy and difpatch.

Perfons refiding in the Weftern Counties of Pennfylvania, may have their Letters Papers &c. fafely forwarded to William M. Biddle, by applying to Thomas Collins Efq. Attorney at Law Pittsburgh.

July 20, 1798.

Juft opening and for fale by the fubfcriber at his Store at *Williams's Mills*, a neat and general aflortment of

MERCHANDIZE,

from Baltimore, fuitable to the feafon, conffifting of *Dry Goods, Groceries, Salt, Iron, Steel, Leather, Spices, Hardware, Cutlery, Cotton and Woollen Hofiery, Indian and Rofe Blankets, Strouds, Teas, Coffee, Chocolate, Loaf and Brown Sugar, Powder, Lead*, and a variety of other articles for Cafh, Country Produce, or Furrs, by

ENNION WILLIAMS.

Williams's Mills, October 29, 1798.

TO BE SOLD,

BY Public Vendue, on Thurfday the 24th day of January next, a HOUSE and LOT in the Town of Nobleſburgh, fituate on the Main ſtreet. The Houſe is two ſtories high, and the Lot contains five rod in front, and ten deep. Attendance will be given and the terms made known on the day of ſale, by the ſubſcribers.

JOSEPH KING.
W. GORMLY,
JOHN GORMLY.

Dec. 22, 1798.

UNITED STATES.

SPEECH,

Of the PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES to Both Houſes of CONGRESS, on Saturday the 8th December, 1798

Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the Houſe of Repreſentatives,

WHILE with reverence and reſignation we contemplate the diſpenſations of divine providence, in the alarming and deſtructive peſtilence with which ſeveral of our cities and towns have been viſited, there is cauſe for gratitude and mutual congratulations, that the malady has diſappeared; and that we are again permitted to aſſemble in ſafety, at the ſeat of government, for the diſcharge of our important duties. But when we reflect that this fatal diſorder has within a few years made repeated ravages in ſome of our principal ſea port towns and with increaſed malignancy, and when we conſider the magnitude of the evils ariſing from the interruption of public and private buſineſs, whereby the national intereſts are deeply affected, I think it my duty to invite the Legiſlature of the Union to examine the expediency of eſtabliſhing ſuitable regulations in aid of the health laws of the reſpective ſtates; for this being formed on the idea, that contagious diſeaſes may be communicated through the channels of commerce, there ſeems to be a neceſſity, that Congreſs, who alone can regulate trade, ſhould frame a ſyſtem, which while it may tend to preſerve the general health, may be compatible with the intereſts of commerce, and the ſafety of the revenue.

While we think on this calamity and ſympathize with the immediate ſufferers, we have a bundant reaſon to preſent to the ſupreme being our annual obligations of gratitude for a liberal participation in the ordinary bleſſings of his providence. To the uſual ſubjects of gratitude, I cannot omit to add one, of the firſt importance to our well-being and ſafety: I mean that ſpirit which has ariſen in our country, againſt the menaces and aggreſſion of a foreign nation. A manly ſenſe of national honor, dignity and independence, has appeared, which if encouraged and invigorated by every branch of the government, will enable us to view undiſmayed, the enterprizes of any foreign power, and become the ſure foundation of nations proſperity and glory.

The courſe of the tranſactions in relation to the United States and France, which have come to my knowledge during your receſs, will be made the ſubject of a future communication. That communication will confirm the ultimate failure of the meaſures which have been taken by the government of the United States towards an amicable adjuſtment of differences with that power. You will at the ſame time perceive, that the French government appears ſolicitous to impreſs the opinion, that it is averſe to a rupture with this country, and that it has in a qualified manner, declared itſelf willing to receive a miniſter from the United States for the purpoſe of reſtoring a good underſtanding. It is unfortunate for profeſſions of this kind, that they ſhould be expreſſed in terms which may countenance the inadmiſſible pretenſion of a right to preſcribe the qualifications which a miniſter from the United States ſhall poſſeſs, and that while France is aſſerting the exiſtence of a diſpoſition on her part to conciliate with ſincerity the differences which have ariſen, the ſincerity of a like diſpoſition on the part of the United States, of which ſo many demonſtrative proofs have been given, ſhould even be indirectly queſtioned. It is alſo worthy of obſervation, that the decree of the Directory aſſerted to be intended to reſtrain the depredations of French cruiſers on our commerce, has not given and cannot give any relief, it enjoins them to conform to all the laws of France relative to cruiſing and prizes, while theſe laws are themſelves the ſources of the depredations, of which we have ſo long, ſo juſtly, and ſo fruitleſſly complained.

The law of France enacted in January laſt, which ſubjects to capture and confiſcation neutral veſſels and their cargoes, if any portion of the latter are of Britiſh, fabric or produce although the entire property belong to neutrals, inſtead of being rejected, has lately received a confirmation, by the failure of a propoſition for its repeal. While this law, which is an unequivocal act of war on the nation it attacks, continues in force, two nations can ſee in the French government only a power, regardleſs of their eſſential rights, of their independence and ſovereignty; and if they poſſeſs the means, they can reconcile nothing with their intereſt and honor, but a firm reſiſtance.

Hitherto, therefore, nothing is diſcoverable in the conduct of France, which ought to change or relax our meaſures of defence, on the contrary to extend and invigorate them, is our true policy. We have no reaſon to regret that theſe meaſures have been thus far adopted and purſued, and in proportion as we enlarge our view of the portentous and inevitable ſituation of Europe, we ſhall diſcover new and cogent motives for the full developement of our energies and reſources.

But in demonſtrating by our conduct that we do not fear war, in the neceſſary protection of our rights and honor, we ſhall give no room to infer that we abandon the deſire of peace. An efficient preparation for war can alone enſure peace. It is peace that we have uniformly and perſevereingly cultivated, and harmony between us and France may be reſtored at her option. But to ſend another miniſter without more determinate aſſurances that he would be received would be an act of humiliation to which the United States ought not to ſubmit, it muſt therefore be left with France, if ſhe is indeed deſirous of accommodation, to take the requiſite ſteps. The United States will ſteadily obſerve the maxims by which they have hitherto been governed. They will reſpect the ſacred rights of Embaſſy. And with a ſincere diſpoſition on the part of France to deſiſt from hoſtility, to make reparation for the injuries heretofore committed on commerce, and to do juſtice in future, there will be no obſtacle to the reſtoration of a friendly intercourſe. In making to you this declaration, I give a pledge to France and the world, that the Executive authority of this country will adheres to the humane and pacific policy which has invariably governed its proceedings, in conformity with the wiſhes of the other branches of the government and of the people of the United States. But conſidering the late manifeſtations of her policy towards foreign nations, I conſider it a duty deliberately and ſolemnly to declare my opinion, that whether we negociate with her or not, vigorous preparations for war will be alike indiſpenſable. Theſe alone will give to us an equal treaty, and future ſecurity.

Among the meaſures of preparation which appear expedient, I take the liberty to recal your attention to the naval eſtabliſhment. The beneficial effects of the ſmall naval armament provided under the acts of the laſt ſeſſion are known and acknowledged. Perhaps no country ever experienced more ſudden and remarkable advantages from any meaſure of policy, than we have from the arming for our maritime protection and defence. We ought, without loſs of time, to lay the foundation for augmenting our navy, to a ſize ſufficient to guard our coaſt and protect our trade. Such a naval force as is doubtleſs in the power of the United States, to create and maintain, would alſo afford to them the beſt means of general defence, by facilitating the tranſportation of troops and ſtores to every part of our extenſive coaſt.

To accompliſh this important object a prudent foreſight requires that ſyſtematical meaſures be adopted for procuring at all times the requiſite timber and other ſupplies. In what manner this ſhall be done, I leave to your conſideration.

I will now advert, Gentlemen, to ſome matters of leſs moment, but proper to be communicated to the national Legiſlature.

After the Spaniſh Garriſons had evacuated the poſts they occupied at the Natchez and Walnut Hills, the Commiſſioner of the United States commenced his obſervations to aſcertain the point near the Miſſiſſipi which terminated the northermoſt point of the thirty firſt degree of North Latitude. From thence he proceeded to run the boundary line between the United States and Spain. He was afterwards joined by the Spaniſh Commiſſioner, where the work of the former was confirmed; and they proceeded together to the demarkation of the line. Recent information renders it probable that the Southern Indians, either inſtigated to oppoſe the demarkation, or jealous of the conſequences of ſuffering white people to run a line over lands to which the Indian title had not been extinguiſhed, have, ere this time ſtopped the progreſs of the Commiſſioners. And conſidering the miſchiefs which may reſult from continuing the demarkation, in oppoſition to the will of the Indian tribes, the great expence attending it, and that the boundaries which the Commiſſioners have actually eſtabliſhed, probably extend at leaſt as far as the Indian title has been extinguiſhed, it will perhaps become expedient and neceſſary to ſuſpend further proceedings, by recalling our Commiſſioner.

The Commiſſioners appointed in purſuance of the firſt article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, between his Britannic Majeſty, to determine what river was truly intended under the name of the river St. Croix, mentioned in the treaty of peace, and forming a part of the boundary therein deſcribed, have finally decided that queſtion. On the twenty fifth of October, they made their declaration, that a river called Scoodiac, which falls into Paſſamaquoddy Bay, at its north weſtern quarter, was the true St Croix, intended in the treaty of peace, as far as its great fork, whereof one of its ſtreams comes from the weſtward, and the other from the northward; and that the latter ſtream is the continuation of the St. Croix to its ſource. This deciſion, it is underſtood, will preclude all contention among individual claimants as it ſeems that the Scoodiac, and its northern branch, bounds the grants of lands which have been made by the reſpective adjoining governments. A ſubordinate queſtion, however, it has been ſuggeſted, ſtill remains to be determined. Between the mouth of the St. Croix, as now ſettled, and what is uſually called the Bay of Fundy, lie a number of valuable iſlands. The Commiſſioners have not continued the boundary line through any channel of theſe iſlands, and unleſs the Bay of Paſſamaquoddy, be a part of the Bay of Fundy, this further adjuſtment of boundary will be neceſſary. But it is apprehended that this will not be a matter of any difficulty.

Such progreſs has been made in the examination and deciſion of caſes of captures and condemnations of American veſſels, which were the ſubject of the ſeventh article of the treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, between the United States and Great Britain, that it is ſuppoſed the Commiſſioners will bring their buſineſs to a concluſion in Auguſt of the enſuing year.

The Commiſſioners acting under the twenty fifth article of the treaty between the United States and Spain, have adjuſted moſt of the claims of our citizens, for loſſes ſuſtained in con-

vance of their veſſels and cargoes having been taken by the ſubjects of his Catholic Majeſty, during the late war between France and Spain.

Various circumſtances have concurred to delay the execution of the law for augmenting the military eſtabliſhment. Among theſe the deſire of obtaining the fulleſt information to direct the beſt ſelection of officers. As this object will now be ſpeedily accompliſhed, it is expected that the raiſing and organizing of the troops will proceed without obſtacle and with effect.

Gentlemen of the Houſe of Repreſentatives,

I have directed an eſtimate of the appropriations which will be neceſſary for the enſuing year, to be laid before you, accompanied with a view of the public receipts and expenditures to a recent period. It will afford you ſatisfaction to infer the great extent and ſolidity of the public reſources, from the proſperous ſtate of the finances, notwithſtanding the unexampled embarraſſments which have attended commerce. When you reflect on the conſpicuous advantages of patriotiſm and liberality; which have been exhibited by our mercantile fellow citizens, and how great a proportion of the public reſources, depends on their enterprize, you will naturally conſider whether their convenience cannot be promoted and reconciled with the ſecurity of the revenue, by a reviſion of the ſyſtem, by which the collection is at preſent regulated.

During your receſs, meaſures have been ſteadily purſued for effecting the valuations and returns directed by the laſt ſeſſion, preliminary to the aſſeſſment and collection of a direct tax. No other delays or obſtacles have been experienced, except ſuch as were expected to ariſe from the great extent of our country, and the magnitude and novelty of the operation, and enough has been accompliſhed to aſſure a fulfillment of the views of the legiſlature.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and
Gentlemen of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

I cannot cloſe this addreſs, without once more adverting to our political ſituation and inculcating the eſſential importance of uniting in the maintainance of our deareſt intereſts; and I truſt that by the temper and wiſdom of your proceedings, and by a harmony of meaſures, we ſhall ſecure to our country that weight and reſpect, to which it is ſo juſtly entitled.

JOHN ADAMS.

The Preſident then preſented a copy to the Preſident of the Senate, and another to the Speaker of the Houſe of Repreſentatives.

In the Senate,

Meſſrs. Read, Roſs and Stockton, were appointed to draft an anſwer to the addreſs.

In the Houſe of Repreſentatives,

The ſpeech was referred to a committee of whole on Monday.

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, December 10.

Richard Dobbs Spaight from North-Carolina, in the place of Nithan Bryan, deceaſed, was qualified and took his ſeat.

Mr. J. Williams moved the uſual reſolution for the appointment of two chaplains of different denominations, and agreed; but on a meſſage coming from the Senate, that they had paſſed a ſimilar reſolution, the Houſe, on motion of Mr. Dent, reſcinded their reſolution, and agreed to that from the Senate.

The Houſe then, agreeable to the order of the day, reſolved itſelf into a committee on the Preſident's ſpeech, Mr. Dent in the chair.

Mr. Sprague moved the following reſolution, Reſolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that a reſpectful addreſs ought to be preſented from the Houſe of Repreſentatives to the Preſident of the United States, in anſwer to his ſpeech to both Houſes at the commencement of the preſent ſeſſion, containing aſſurances that this Houſe will take into conſideration the many important matters recommended to their attention. The committee roſe, and reported, and the reſolution was adopted by the Houſe.

Mr. D. Foſter moved that a committee be appointed to draft the anſwer. Meſſrs. Dana, Veble, Harper, Hoſmer and Baldwin were appointed.

Mr. Kittera preſented a petition of John Daels, an old ſoldier, praying to be placed on the invalid liſt.

Mr. W. Claiborne preſented a petition of N. S. Fournier ſtating his attendance on the army as phyſician during the indiſpoſition of the army phyſician, and praying pay therefor. Mr. Claiborne moved that it be referred to a ſelect committee.

Mr. J. Williams thought a committee of claims ought to be appointed, to which it ſhould be referred.

Mr. Claiborne ſaid that if a committee of claims had been appointed, he ſhould have moved for its reference to a ſelect committee, it being a peculiar caſe. This gentleman had been at a conſiderable charge and trouble for which he ought to be paid. Application had been made to the Secretary of War, who had decided on the claim, in a very particular manner, on which account the appeal was now removed to the Houſe. If it was referred to the committee of claims the difficulty of getting the members together might prevent that inveſtigation which was neceſſary to juſtice to the caſe: it could not be ſo well, nor ſpeedily done as by a ſelect committee.

The motion was loſt.

Mr. J. Williams then moved that a committee of claims be appointed, purſuant to the ſtanding rules and orders of the Houſe.

Meſſrs. D. Foſter, Macon, Hannah, Freeman, Gray, Sprigg, and Van Allen were appointed.

The above petitions were referred thereto.

Mr. D. Foſter ſaid it was neceſſary the Houſe ſhould be informed what buſineſs remained unfiniſhed from laſt ſeſſion, and moved that a committee of reviſal and unfiniſhed buſineſs be appointed.

Mr. J. Williams moved that the ſpeech of the Preſident of the United States, be committed to a committee of the whole Houſe on the ſtate of the union. Carried.

Mr. Williams moved for the appointment of a committee of commerce and manufactures.

Meſſrs. S. Smith, Sewal, Waln, Rutledge, Schureman, Tillinghaſt and Blount were appointed.

The Rev. Dr. Greene elected Chaplain.

TUESDAY, December 11.

The Speaker laid before the Houſe a letter from the Secretary of the Treaſury, including a ſtatement from the Commiſſioners at the Federal City, of their receipt and expenditure for the laſt ſix months. Ordered to be printed.

A meſſage was received from the Senate announcing the appointment of the Right Rev. Wm. White, for Chaplain on their part.

Mr. S. Smith moved that the report of a committee laſt ſeſſion, relative to a plan reported by the Secretary of the Treaſury for regulating the duties on imports and tonnage, be referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Macon amended the motion by moving that they may be inſtructed to report by bill or otherwiſe, as he ſaid it was a limited ſeſſion, and it was neceſſary to expedite buſineſs as much as poſſible. The motion and amendment were carried.

Mr. Harper ſaid it would be recollected that at the early part of laſt ſeſſion, the Houſe took up the ſubject of an uniform ſyſtem of bankruptcy, when a committee was appointed, and a lengthy bill reported thereupon, but much important matter then occupying the attention of the Houſe, it was never proceeded on: as the ſubject appeared to him very important, he wiſhed again to bring it before the Houſe, on which account he would move, that a committee be appointed to bring in a bill to eſtabliſh an uniform ſyſtem of bankruptcy throughout the United States. Meſſrs. Sewal, Harper, Hoſmer, Venable and Kittera were appointed.

Mr. Thatcher reported a conſiderable number of items as part of the buſineſs of laſt ſeſſion, remaining unfiniſhed, which was laid on the table.

Mr. Harper ſaid that no member in the Houſe could be ignorant of the uſe which was made, particularly in ſome parts of the United States, of two bills paſſed the laſt ſeſſion, commonly called the Alien and the Sedition bills. No one could be ignorant of the great ferment they had cauſed in ſeveral parts. He had himſelf ſeen, that ſuch a ferment had been made, and was now kept up in many places; which was entirely owing to a miſconſtruction of thoſe laws. This he conceived was in conſequence of the narrow circulation of the newſpapers in which they were publiſhed, and even where publiſhed, laws would not claim the attention of the people like an article of news, and therefore, by many, were never read. Few had opportunity to be acquainted with the nature, and fewer with the technical terms of the laws of the United States. He knew that groſs miſrepreſentation had been practiſed: he knew particularly, that the bill, originally ſent down from the Senate to the Houſe, but which was afterwards entirely changed from one end to the other, that bill was read to a public aſſemblage of people as the exiſting Sedition law. He would further ſtate, that having traveſſed ſeveral hundred miles, he knew of no individual, who was not zealouſly engaged in oppoſition to thoſe bills, after he became acquainted with the nature of them, without a ſingle expoſition, but was fully ſatisfied that they were conſtitutional meaſures. In order then to enlarge this information, and to remove the remaining diſcontents, in order to enable the people to form an adequate judgement on thoſe bills, and then to remove a dangerous oppoſition to their execution, he moved to this effect: That the Secretary of State be, and he is hereby authoriſed to cauſe to be printed the Alien and the Sedition bills, and to cauſe the ſame to be diſtributed gratis throughout the United States.

The reſolution was laid on the table.

Mr. Sprague moved, that agreeable to the order of the day, the Houſe go into a committee of the whole on the ſtate of the union.

Mr. Macon ſaid, it never had been the rule of the Houſe to go into the ſtate of the union, until after the committee appointed to draft an anſwer to the Preſident's ſpeech had reported. This, he ſaid, would be committing the ſpeech to two committees, at the ſame time, which was irregular. The motion was loſt.

Mr. Thatcher moved to adjourn: only 14 members riſing in the affirmative it was loſt. Some time after, Mr. Rutledge ſaid he ſuppoſed the Houſe continued in ſeſſion in expectation of an anſwer to the Preſident's ſpeech being reported, but as one of the committee for that purpoſe, he could aſſure the Houſe, that the committee could not report this day. He therefore moved to adjourn, which was carried.

WEDNESDAY, December 12.

Mr. Harper propoſed to the Houſe a reſolution that the States, againſt which ballances had been ſettled, by the Commiſſioners, to be due to the United States, ſhould within time, pay the award into the treaſury, provided that no more than one third be paid in 3 per cent ſtock, and no more than one third in the deferred ſtock: alſo, that where money had been expended in fortifications, ſuch monies ſhould be accounted as payment.

This, he ſaid, was merely the ſame as a law which paſſed the Houſe laſt ſeſſion, but was now reduced to a reſolution from the form of a Bill: he therefore hoped it would not meet with oppoſition in the preſent ſeſſion. He moved that it ſhould be committed to a committee of the whole to day, it being neceſſary to decide on it ſoon as poſſible, as it reſpected, moſt particularly, a State whoſe Legiſlature was at this time, or very ſhortly would be, in ſeſſion. As it would take ſome time perhaps in paſſing the Senate; and as the principle of it was agreed to laſt ſeſſion, he hoped no delay would be made.

The motion for committal this day was loſt, and to-morrow ſubſtituted and agreed to.

Mr. Harper then moved for the appointment of a committee to conſider if any, and what alterations are neceſſary in the act laying a duty on ſtamped vellum, parchment and paper. He particularized the inconveniencies of that act as it reſpected bills of exchange, on which it bore particularly heavy, and which was not intended. He hoped early attention would be paid to that ſubject.

Mr. Macon ſaid it was the uſual practice of the Houſe, when a motion reſpected the revenue, to refer it to the committee of ways and means: whether it was neceſſary to amend any of the revenue laws; or whether more revenue would be wanting during the preſent ſeſſion, he could not ſay, but he thought it beſt to diſpoſe of the preſent motion in that way.

On the queſtion, it was referred to a committee of three members, who, on the motion of Mr. S. Smith, was inſtructed to report by bill or otherwiſe.

Mr. Harper then called up the reſolution he propoſed yeſterday, for printing a number of copies of the alien and ſedition bills.

Mr. Nicholas ſaid he had no objection to the publication of thoſe acts in the manner propoſed by the member; but in conſidering that gentleman's reaſons, as founded on his own knowledge, wherein ſome ſerious obſervations were made on a meeting which he could not help ſuſpecting related to a part of the State he repreſented.—On that account he hoped the gentleman would indulge him, and the Houſe with mentioning the place on which he grounded his obſervations in the courſe of his travels.

Mr. Harper ſaid he had no objections to indulge the gentleman and the Houſe. He had ſtated three circumſtances, two of which had come to his knowledge, and of the third he had not the leaſt doubt: this was at a meeting held an hoſtile intention of oppoſing the bills in queſtion, where, not the ſedition act was introduced, but a draft of a bill which was brought before the Senate, who afterwards made alterations therein, and which was further altered in the Houſe, before it paſſed into the exiſting ſedition law. He ſaid he was not preſent himſelf at the meeting referred to, but had it from a gentleman of reſpectability, of whoſe veracity he had not the leaſt doubt, this happened in Louiſa county, in the ſtate of Virginia. If the member wanted the name of the gentleman, he had no objections to give it him after he ſat down, but it would be imprudent to mention it in the Houſe.

Another circumſtance he had mentioned, from his own knowledge, it was reſpecting ſundry reſolutions entered into in the ſtate of Kentucky, which appeared to be founded on the letter of a member of Congreſs, which letter he had read, but had reaſon to believe; from the character of that member, and the opinion he had of him, that miſconſtruction of the meaning of the law had involved them in a groſs error, that the ſedition act aimed at, and abridged the liberty of ſpeech: which was not within the purview of the act.

The third, and which he ſaid was in his own knowledge, was, that in not a ſingle inſtance, where a perſon was not engaged in actual oppoſition—who was not a groſs party man, did he meet with any who on hearing the laws explained, but acquieſced in their propriety; but every perſon of that deſcription he had met with, expreſſed aſtoniſhment that they had formed ſuch a view of them before they had heard them explained. The gentleman from Virginia might not have met with ſuch inſtances, but Mr. Harper ſaid he could only be guided by his own knowledge: on this he grounded the reſolution, which he believed of particular importance.

The reſolutions alluded to, and which were grounded on the miſrepreſentations ſtated, were ſaid to be unanimous, and by the continual miſconſtructions put on thoſe acts in ſeveral newſpapers, it appears to be determined to follow up the oppoſition to them. They muſt mean, and he ſuppoſed many of theſe meetings did mean nothing leſs, than an ARMED oppoſition to theſe laws: he ſincerely wiſhed he might be miſtaken in his conjectures, but, ſaid he, we have already ſeen an armed oppoſition which proceeded by the very ſame ſteps, and what has been may be again. He ſaw the ſame meaſures purſuing; the ſame tactics employed which produced that lamentable cataſtrophe. He thought the way to prevent that oppoſition was to give the people a knowledge of the laws, becauſe he did believe as far as they had a knowledge of them they were ſatisfied, and he believed it would promote a more general acquieſcence by diſſeminating them more generally: but if, on the contrary their publication ſhould cauſe a greater diſapprobation, he was willing truth ſhould have its courſe.

Mr. Nicholas ſaid he had no objections to the motion, but ſome of the gentleman's obſervations merited notice. He had long known that that gentleman had ſat down thoſe who oppoſed his opinions of things, for ignorant and incapicitated; this was a trait in his character, and therefore no wonder that he ſhould think ſo of thoſe who diſapprove of thoſe bills; he ſeemed to conſider the people of Virginia ſuch to whom he had reference, but he could tell him, that there were ſeveral men reſiding there who were as capable as himſelf, and the chairman of that meeting, he conſidered as a gentleman of ſuperior judgment.

As the gentleman had been ſo ſucceſsful in juſtifying the legiſlature for paſſing thoſe laws, Mr. Nicholas ſaid, he would wiſh that he ſhould not only have the laws printed, but his obſervations on them, for he meant, as ſoon as the houſe ſhould meet a little more numerous, to move no other member did, for the repeal of them.

Notwithſtanding all the gent'eman had ſaid about the general ignorance reſpecting thoſe laws he could ſay he had ſeen no man in Virginia who had a competent knowledge of them, and in general of the cauſe of that gentleman's their favor, and yet they were diſapproved of.

Mr. Dawſon moved to poſtpone the conſideration of the reſolution for one month; not to ſhe, becauſe he diſapproved of the reſolution, but to give full time for it's conſideration. The bills were oppoſed becauſe they were ſaid to unconſtitutional, in conſequence of which it appeared there would be an attempt made to them repealed. What would be the fate of a motion, he knew not, but he ſincerely it would ſucceſsful: but ſhould that attempt carry, he would be in favor of the reſolution their promulgation.

He would ſpeak a word on the gentleman's ſervations reſpecting the meeting at the court Louiſa. This, he ſaid, was the firſt time he ever heard the circumſtance which he had reſpecting reading the reported bill, and he really believed it had not exiſted. He had been at the court houſe where the meeting held, and had ſeen many reſpectable men of formation who were preſent, but had never fore heard the circumſtance.

Mr. J. Williams could wiſh the laſt had not been made. He could not ſuppoſe gentleman would oppoſe a reſolution for the tenſion of a knowledge of the laws. He the reſolution for printing would be adopted.

The queſtion for poſtponing was taken and motion rejected. Ayes 29. Noes 42.

Mr. Macon ſaid, as it was a queſtion proposed the expenditure of money, and as it paſs both houſes, it would be beſt to commit He was encouraged to this opinion from its ing been the proceeding reſpecting republiſhing edition of the laws. Though this was not a ter of ſo much magnitude, yet in principle it the ſame, he therefore wiſhed the gentleman would agree to refer it to a ſelect committee bring in a bill.

Mr. Harper ſaid it was exactly of the ſame ture of a reſolution paſſed laſt ſeſſion for printing the diſpatches received from France, and could as well be ſo done; but he was not tenacious of the mode ſo that the principle paſſed.

Mr. Thatcher was in favor of the principle the motion, but he thought it could be more generally uſeful by publiſhing it in the ſeveral newspapers throughout the union. This he thought leſs circuitous way than by diſtribution. The gentleman who moved a poſtponement ſuppoſed the people uninformed, and proposed after a month to give them information!

Mr. Harper thought that diſtributing 100,000 copies would be much better than putting it in the different newspaper. In ſome parts of the continent there are but few poſt offices, and there the circulation would be extremely limited.

While he was up, Mr. Harper ſaid he muſt reply to ſome remarks which a gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Nicholas) had indulged himſelf in; he explained his former obſervations, and the foundation of his aſſertions. The gentleman had ſaid ſaid that he (Mr. Harper) had been in the habit of conſidering people who different in opinion from him as ignorant and incapacitated: if that were true that gentleman muſt be conſidered to bear that character, and moſt particularly ſo because he had been moſtly oppoſed to him in opinion. But, he ſaid, ſo contrary was the truth, that he had always paid the greateſt reſpect to his opinion. But owing to miſtatement, or miſconception, he had not repreſented the fact. He had hoped that the gentleman would not have indulged himſelf in perſonalities in ſo early a part of the ſeſſion. But in hopes that he would not continue thoſe perſonal attacks, he ſhould forbear ſaying more about.

Mr. Harper then moved that 100,000 copies be printed: this was negatived, as were 50,000 and 40,000, and a motion for 20,000 carried.

The reſolution being under conſideration,

Mr. Gallatin ſaid that it was proper at all times to give due information to the people of all laws that are paſſed. The laws of laſt ſeſſion, he ſaid, had been publiſhed, and were generally known. If there were any laws of the United States, on which leſs information was requiſite, than others, it was the two laws pointed out by the gentleman from South-Carolina: however he had brought them forward particularly, and propoſed a reſolution on a ſuppoſition that the people of the United States were not acquainted with them. And what, he aſked, was the evidence produced by the gentleman to convince the houſe of his opinion? His own evidence! He had traveſſed, he ſaid, ſeveral hundreds of miles; no doubt of it. But he had found ten, twenty, thirty or fifty people in the United States, who had not a proper conception of thoſe laws. Becauſe one member in the Houſe had ſaid that he had found a few people who had not a knowledge of them, was that to be a concluſive reaſon for conſidering all their oppoſers as ignorant? Were there not an hundred members on the floor, and not one beſides that gentleman ſupports the aſſertion that it is the caſe in his diſtrict.

But though the reſolution implied two laws, yet the evidence of the gentleman, and his obſervations only related to one: he did not pretend even to ſay that the Alien bill was not underſtood. That law Mr. G. aſſerted was well underſtood; it was well known that the Preſid pleaſure, ſend away any inimical

That gentleman, he ſaid, had that the reſolutions in Virginia grounded on a bill, different fro paſſed [Mr. Harper here expla and meant, that a falſe bill had